

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 111100Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1369

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO USSAG NKP THAI

CINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : RTARF

SUBJECT : FANK BILATERALS

SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THAI GENERAL KRIANGSAK MARCH 8, RTARF-FANK BILATERALS DID NOT RESULT IN ANY MAJOR AGREEMENTS. THAI REPEATED REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE RTAF AIR SUPPORT NOW BUT LEFT CHANNEL OPEN FOR POSSIBLE LATER RECONSIDERATION. THAI MILITARY IN CAMBODIA WILL BE MORE CLOSELY LINKED TO THAI EMBASSY. SUPREME COMMAND PREPARED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN RTG FOR EXPEDITING CLEARANCE OF SUPPLIES FOR GKR. GROUP OF THAI JOURNALISTS WILL VISIT PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

1. BECAUSE MARCH 5 AIR FRANCE FLIGHT CANCELLED, GENERAL KRIANGSAK FORCED TO ABANDON PLAN FOR VISIT TO PHNOM PENH TO CONTINUE RTARF-FANK BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, THROUGH COURTESY OF GENERAL O'KEEFE AT USSAG, ARRANGEMENTS WERE WORKED OUT FOR MEETING BETWEEN GENERAL KRIANGSAK AND GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ AT NKP RTAFB WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 6.

2. KRIANGSAK MARCH 8 TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH FERNANDEZ COVERED ONLY FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

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A. AIR SUPPORT FOR FANK. KRIANGSAK TOLD FERNANDEZ THAT

FOR POLITICAL REASONS THE RTG WOULD DENY RTAF AIR SUPPORT FOR FANK FOR THE PRESENT; KRIANGSAK EXPLAINED THAT RTG WAS CONVINCED THAT EVEN STRIKING AN EASY SMALL TARGET IN CAMBODIA WAS NOT WORTH THE POLITICAL RISK. HOWEVER, THE SUPREME COMMAND HAD SET ASIDE MONEY TO SUPPORT RTAF OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA AND WILL KEEP A SKELETON ORGANIZATION INTACT WITHIN THE RTAF FOR EXPANSION IF IT APPEARS NECESSARY TO INTERVENE LATER. FURTHERMORE KRIANGSAK SAID HE INTENDED TO SEND BETTER RTAF LIAISON OFFICERS TO CAMBODIA, BUT THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROVED WITHIN THE RTG.

B. THE PRESENT RTAF LIAISON AND INTELLIGENCE GROUPS STATIONED IN PHNOM PENH WITH THEIR OWN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EMBASSY AND PLACED UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE, BUT WILL CONTINUE THE SAME FUNCTIONS, WHICH KRIANGSAK DESCRIBED AS "POLITICAL SUPPORT" FOR THE GKR.

C. KRIANGSAK ALSO PROPOSED THAT RADIO COMMUNICATION FACILITIES TO SERVICE RTAF INTELLIGENCE GROUPS IN BATTAMBANG, SIEM REAP AND KOH KONG BE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE RTG EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC COVER. KRIANGSAK SAID THIS PLAN HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE RTG/MFA; FERNANDEZ SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO REFER THIS REQUEST TO PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET FOR APPROVAL.

3. EMBOFFS ASKED KRIANGSAK ABOUT RTG COOPERATION IN EXPEDITING MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR CAMBODIA. KRIANGSAK ASSURED US THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEMS AND THAT SUPREME COMMAND WOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL FORMALITIES AND CERTIFY AS REQUIRED TO CUSTOMS AND OTHER AGENCIES FOR THE MOVEMENT OF POL, AMMUNITION, RICE, ETC., EITHER IN OR OUT OF COUNTRY. HOWEVER, HE URGED THAT SUCH PROBLEMS SHOULD BE BROUGHT, IN EVERY CASE, TO SUPREME COMMAND RATHER THAN THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, STATING THAT WHEN THE GKR EMBASSY TAKES SUCH PROBLEMS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THESE CASES, IT THREATENS TO SPOIL ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS SUPREME COMMAND HAS MADE IN THE PAST. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE TAKE KRIANGSAK'S COMMENTS WITH A GRAIN OF SALT, IT DOES APPEAR THAT GKR REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS TYPE OF COOPERATION SHOULD, FOR THE PRESENT, BE DIRECTED FROM FANK TO RTAF SUPREME COMMAND RATHER THAN THROUGH GKR EMBASSY-MFA CHANNELS. END COMMENT.

4. IN PASSING, GENERAL KRIANGSAK SAID THAT SUPREME COMMAND WOULD SPONSOR ANOTHER VISIT BY THAI JOURNALISTS TO PHNOM PENH SHORTLY. COMMENT: INSPIRATION FOR THIS ACTION, WHICH BELIEVE WILL ASSIST IN ENLIGHTENING THAI PUBLIC REGARDING

RECENT FANK SUCCESSES AROUND PHNOM PENH, MAY SPRING FROM
AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWING HIS RECENT
CONSULTATION WITH CHARGE ENDERS IN PHNOM PENH.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO04009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740354/aaaabyno.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : FANK BILATERALS SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THAI GENERAL KRIANGSAK MARCH 8, RTARF-TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB, (KRIANGSAK)
To: STATE PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005